Ronald McDonald House Gainesville

Presented by UFHealth University of Florida Health

Build a House for the House

Gingerbread House Competition

Friday, December 4, 2026

Ronald McDonald House Gainesville | 2121 SW 16th St | Gainesville, FL | 32608



What's in *Your Kit*

- 6 prebaked gingerbread house panels (assembled approx. 7" W × 7" D × 6.25" H)
- Decorating bag and tip
- White royal icing
- Assorted candy

The *Bases*

INDIVIDUAL
Cardboard base measuring 10 × 14 inches

GROUP
White base measuring 3 × 3 feet

Rules & *Guidelines*

01 Please **do not open your kit** until the decorating kick-off begins. There will be a countdown to the official start of the competition.

02 You will have from **12:15 PM to 1:15 PM** to assemble, decorate, and finish your creation.

03 Each individual participant will be given **one gingerbread house kit**. Therefore, groups of eight will have eight gingerbread house kits that will be utilized.

04 Each kit comes unassembled and **must be assembled** by the individual participant/group during the competition.

05 All gingerbread creations must be placed on the **cardboard or wood base** provided. Do not cover the number on your base — this number is needed for judging.



Tips & *Judging*

Build a House for the House

Individuals & Groups *Are Encouraged To Bring*

- **Candy & Decorations:** Gumdrops, candy canes, peppermints, M&M's, licorice, sprinkles, marshmallows, and other festive treats.
- **Extra Building Materials:** Graham crackers, pretzel rods, cookies, ice cream cones, cereal, and additional gingerbread pieces.
- **Icing & Decorating Supplies:** Royal icing, piping bags, decorating tips, food coloring, and edible glitter.
- **Tools:** Scissors, spatulas, rolling pins, small knives, rulers, and tweezers for detailed decorating.
- **Creative Extras:** Fondant, coconut flakes for snow, sugar cubes, chocolate bars, and edible decorations.
- **Design Inspiration:** Sketches, blueprints, photos, or a theme to help bring your team's vision to life.
- **Team Spirit:** Matching shirts, festive hats, holiday attire, or accessories that showcase your team's personality!
- **Personal Supplies:** Aprons, gloves, paper towels, and containers to organize your decorating materials.



Helpful *Hints*

- Assembling the gingerbread house is part of the competition. Consider bringing something to support your walls/roof seams as they dry (e.g. canned goods to hold the walls in place hands-free, **cordless** glue gun, quick-dry caulk/caulking gun, etc.).
- If you want the walls of your house to be covered in frosting, you may want to add a few drops of water to thin the icing.
- Don't put too much candy on the roof.
- Where possible, pre-decorate your roof & walls if you plan on making intricate designs.
- Inexpensive art brushes, cotton swabs & tweezers are useful tools.
- Straight pins are a helpful tool to stabilize the walls of your house.
- Pinterest has tons of ideas for unique and creative gingerbread houses!

Judging *Categories*

Awarded in both the Individual and Group divisions

HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY
The most festive

GINGERBREAD GENIUS
The most creative

SANTA'S SWEET TOOTH
The most edible/delicious-looking

CANDYLAND SHOWSTOPPER
The best decorated

THE GREAT GINGERBREAD SHOWDOWN
The best presentation

SWEET DISASTER
The most disastrous

CEO's Choice — captures the heart of our mission & the eye of our CEO and a special kiddo

QUESTIONS? Contact **Amanda Weber** at **(352)374.4404 ext. 223** **amanda@ronaldmcdonaldhousegnv.org**